

# Eyak Echo

ECHOES OF OUR ANCESTORS



REVIVING TRADITION

## *Artists stitch a Sugpiaq parka*

**Sugpiaq elder leads group of Cordova artists in making of a bear gut raincoat**

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Recording the past and preserving history

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# Native Village of Eyak Employees

## TRIBAL COUNCIL

Mark Hoover..... Tribal Council Chairman  
 Sylvia Lange ..... Tribal Council Vice Chairman  
 Pam Smith..... Tribal Council Secretary-Treasurer  
 Tom Andersen ..... Tribal Council Member  
 Darrel Olsen ..... Tribal Council Member

## NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

Bertrand Adams ..... Executive Director  
 Brooke Mallory ..... Deputy Director  
 Jim Gittleson ..... Finance Director  
 Steve Bambakidis ..... IT Director  
 Kari Collins ..... Health Administrator  
 John Whissel ..... Environmental Director  
 Tammie Dillon Smith ..... Human Resource Manager  
 Aniessa Hodges ..... Human Resources Assistant  
 Reyna Newirth ..... Executive Administrative Assistant/Office Manager  
 Shannon Phillips ..... Receptionist  
 Teri Melugin ..... Receptionist  
 Rebecca Calfina ..... Tribal Judicial Systems Administrator  
 Joe Cook ..... Maintenance  
 Bree Mills ..... Tribal Family Services Director  
 Jackie Ladd ..... Elder Services Coordinator  
 Christine Belgarde ..... Elder Services Assistant  
 Jessica Weaver ..... Family Program Coordinator  
 Jessicca Jones ..... Wellness Event Coordinator  
 Heather Thorne ..... Victim Advocacy & Response Coordinator  
 Stephanie Belgarde ..... Resource Coordinator  
 Linda Powell ..... ICWA Coordinator  
 Kayley DeLozier ..... ICWA Assistant  
 Kym Magallanes ..... Staff Accountant  
 Celeste Gasmen ..... Accounting Technician  
 Mikie McHone ..... Procurement and Asset Manager  
 Sean O'Brien ..... Capital Projects Director  
 Myra Eleshansky ..... Housing Coordinator  
 Tyler Quiring ..... Capital Projects Office Administrator  
 Carl Rowland III ..... Labor Technician II  
 Charles Hodsdon ..... Labor Technician I  
 Matt Piche ..... Natural Resources Coordinator  
 James Paley ..... DENR Engineer  
 Ivy Patton ..... Environmental Coordinator  
 Caitlin McKinstry ..... DENR Biologist I  
 Andy Pfeiffer ..... IT Coordinator II  
 Russell Mallory ..... IT Coordinator I  
 Lennette Ronnegard ..... Enrollment Clerk

## ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Cindy Bradford..... Operations Director  
 Brian Iutzi..... Physician/ Co-Medical Director  
 Benjamin Head..... Physician/Co-Medical Director  
 Delia Reyes ..... Nurse Practitioner  
 Nicole Piche ..... Clinical Services Manager  
 Cassi Septien..... Registered Nurse  
 Karin Siebenmorgen ..... Registered Nurse  
 Ellen Sheridan..... Case Manager/Registered Nurse  
 Florelyn Adajar ..... Certified Clinical Medical Assistant  
 Jim Cabusora ..... Medical Assistant  
 MaryCris Carino ..... Certified Clinical Medical Assistant  
 Reese Plant..... MA/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
 Laura Appleton ..... Registration Specialist  
 Berna Quemado ..... Certified Nursing Assistant/Patient Services  
 Tiffany Algozine ..... Outreach & Enrollment Specialist  
 Sarah Lamb ..... Care Coordinator  
 Jessica Arasmith ..... Registration and Enrollment Supervisor  
 Shannon Mallory ..... Revenue Cycle Supervisor  
 Stacie Chappell ..... Revenue Cycle Specialist  
 Susan Powell ..... Behavioral Health Director  
 Sun Young An ..... Behavioral Health Clinician  
 John Yakanak ..... Behavioral Health Specialist  
 Barbara Soloman ..... Licensed Nutritionist  
 Nicko Felix ..... Environmental Services Technician

## ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER

Danaya Hoover..... Cultural Director  
 Teal Hansen..... Cultural Center Coordinator  
 Angela Butler ..... Eyak Language Specialist  
 Janalie Howard ..... ICC Assistant  
 Shyla Krukoff ..... Sugcestun Language Specialist  
 Mark King ..... Subsistence Boat Captain  
 Jessie Alexander..... Traditional Harvesting Coordinator

## TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

Bob Ladd..... Prince William Marina Manager

## THE CORDOVA TIMES

Vivian Kennedy ..... Office Manager & Sales Representative



## 27th ANNUAL SOBRIETY CELEBRATION

*Logo contest  
winner  
announced*



Congratulations goes to Teal Hansen with her original artwork.

Her winning piece will take centerstage as this year's 2022 Sobriety Celebration logo. Jessica Morningstar, Wellness Event Coordinator, would like to thank everyone who entered the contest and voted. "I am so happy with this amazing piece for the 27th Annual Sobriety Celebration Potlatch Dinner!" she said.



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT NVE

**View current available positions at**

**[WWW.NVEYAK.COM/JOBS](http://WWW.NVEYAK.COM/JOBS)**

or call NVE's Human Resources Manager Tammie Dillon Smith at

**907-424-7738**

Full job descriptions and applications are available at NVE's main office at 110 Nicholoff Way, online at [www.nveyak.com/jobs/](http://www.nveyak.com/jobs/) and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NativeVillageofEyak/>



## CONGRATULTIONS

# *Donald Ladd promoted in Coast Guard*

On June 1, 2022, Donald Ladd advanced to Chief Warrant Officer of the United States Coast Guard. Donald has been serving the Coast Guard for 17 years as an Electricians Mate. This career has taken him and his family from Alaska, to California, to Puerto Rico, and now to Virginia. Donald will report to the Harriet Lane in Portsmouth, Virginia at the end of this month to start his next tour. Donald is the son of Bob & Jackie Ladd in Cordova, AK.



Photos courtesy of Annalee Ladd

From left, Caitlyn Ladd(18), Sawyer Ladd(5), Steve Thornton, Bob Ladd, Raegan Ladd (7), Donald and Annalee Ladd, Jackie Ladd and Martha Thornton at the advancement ceremony in Everett, WA.

*Congratulate a Tribal Member in the Eyak Echo*

EMAIL [ECHO@EYAK-NSN.GOV](mailto:ECHO@EYAK-NSN.GOV)



## PENINSULA COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM

# Long graduates with honors



Photo courtesy of Alicia Long

Marilyn (Eaton) Kahler and Alicia Long.

Alicia just started her nursing career at the Health Services Administrator at the Clallam County Jail. There she will lead the medical team in providing holistic, compassionate care to a population she is very excited to work with. Alicia will also be working with providers of a local health care network in creating and implementing a Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) program for inmates struggling with addiction. The goal is to provide treatment to individuals while they are incarcerated and to have a treatment plan in place to support them upon release. Alicia plans to earn her Bachelors and then Masters degrees in Nursing Administration.

Alicia Long, born and raised in Cordova, graduated Friday, June 17 with Honors from the Peninsula College Nursing Program in Port Angeles, Washington. Alicia was pinned by Marilyn (Eaton) Kahler, her inspiration for going to nursing school. Marilyn practiced as a PA-C in Cordova for many years and became friends with Alicia and her family and was the one who encouraged her to attend school in Port Angeles.

Alicia would like to thank her husband, Jason, for supporting her through four years of school. Without his support she would not have been able to be so successful. Alicia would also like to thank her children Raven, Marina, and Sebastian for being there in good times and bad and for being the reason she works so hard. You three are the greatest of all her accomplishments.



Annikah Jones



Jacey Pallas

## Thank You Letter

*To everyone that has supported me,*

It is with great pleasure that I announce to you that I have graduated from the Peninsula College Nursing program with honors. It is with great pride that I share with you that I was hired as the Health Services Administrator at the Clallam County Jail and started on June 27, 2022. I will be the acting manager of the health team for the jail. In this position, I will lead a team of registered nurses and support staff to provide consistent and respectful care to the inmates of the county jail. I will also be working directly with a local physician to start a Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program for our patients with addiction. This will

follow them upon release to reduce the number of relapses, overdoses, and hopefully further incarceration.

I cannot thank you enough for the financial and personal support that I have received while attending school. It is because of this support that I have been so successful. My education journey is not over, and once settled into my new position I will be applying to a respected online college to pursue my bachelor's degree in Nursing and eventually my master's in Nursing management. I look forward to sharing more of my success with you in the future.

**Respectfully, Alicia C. Long**

## Hats off!

Congrats 2022  
Cordova High  
School graduates!

Congratulations NVE Tribal Member 2022 high school graduates, Jacey Pallas and Annikah Jones! We are so proud of you and your many achievements. Best wishes for a bright future!



## WELCOME TEAM MEMBERS

# Meet Native Village of Eyak's new employees



### Shannon Phillips:

I was hired by NVE in June as the Family Program Assistant and am super excited about my new position. I love crafting, spending time with my family, and adventuring outdoors.



### Carl Rowland III:

I started working for NVE as a fisheries Technician at Canyon Creek camp. In my off time I like to rod and reel and fly fish as well as participate in outdoor things ranging from Flying, RC Plane flying, water/snow skiing to extreme sports like skydiving.



### Tammie Dillon Smith:

Tammie and her husband moved from Texas in March 2022 so she could join NVE as the HR manager. Tammie loves Alaska, the outdoors, COFFEE and getting to know new people and cultures. When she is not at work, she is with her husband and 3 fur babies—Reggie, Coco and Moana (dogs).



### Mikie McHone:

I started at NVE in February as the Procurement & Assets Manager. Sammy and I enjoy walks on the breakwater and watching movies. I frequently start craft projects I may never finish and I usually have snacks.



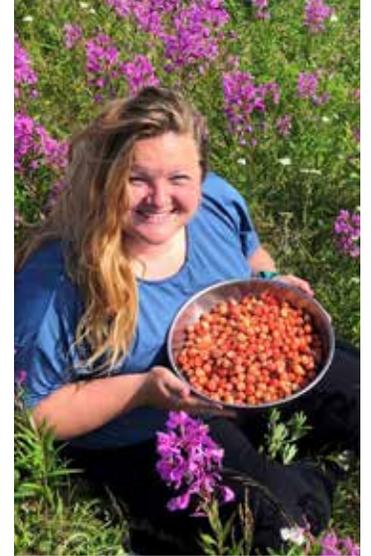
### Stephanie Belgarde:

I started last November as NVE's Resource Coordinator. I have always been a proud member of our tribe and really looked forward to being able to help other Tribal Members and be involved in new and engaging ways. Outside of work I enjoy reading, travelling, cooking and supporting Seattle sports teams.



### Teri Melugin:

My favorite hobbies include sport fishing and camping. Things I enjoy about working for NVE is the feeling of belonging to a community within a community. NVE has a great group of people who are encouraging, uplifting, and make it very rewarding to be part of a team. I also enjoy being of services to tribal members and my fellow co-workers. I find being useful and helpful personally fulfilling.



### Janalie Howard:

Janalie Howard joined the ICC in September as the Ilanka Cultural Center Assistant, she loves getting sunburnt from being outside and trying new crafts.



### Caitlin McKinstry:

Caitlin has lived and worked in Cordova for more than 10 years and joined NVE's Department of the Environment and Natural Resources as a biologist in February. She enjoys knitting, ice skating, and snowboarding.



## Bree Mills:

Favorite hobbies include theatre arts, photography, painting/digital art, and reading. I came to NVE to move into a career that allowed me the opportunity to put my greatest strengths to



use. I love people and building the types of relationships that give me a window into how I can make their lives better. I am an advocate at heart and I love experiences that challenge me and allow me to make a difference in the day to day lives of others. I am so thankful for the staff and leadership at NVE that make this such a supportive and exciting place to work.



## Heather Thorne:

I really enjoy helping people in anyway that's needed. You'll usually find me anywhere there's a volunteer needed. If there's no project, I'll surely create one. I spent my entire adult career working with no passion behind it. My hobbies were the only place I felt like I was accomplishing "Life". Now everyday with the Tribal Family Services, feels like I'm making our community a little better, a little safer. And as a mom and a coach to many of the kids in town - that means the world to me.

## Christine Belgarde:

Chris started working with NVE back in September of 2021 as the Elder Services Assistant. She loves working with and spending time with the elders. In her spare time Chris enjoys beading, cooking/baking, great grandmā'ing, processing fish, and of course fishing.



# NVE Elder rides are back!

We are offering rides again but strongly recommending utilizing family and friends to keep a small contact group. It is helpful if you can call ahead of time and schedule rides when you know you want to go somewhere.

We are asking all Elders to please sit in the backseat with your face mask on.

**Contact Jackie Ladd**  
Elder Services Coordinator

**907-253-7230**

*for information on Elder Services, activities and events.*

**8AM - 5PM Monday thru Friday**



### TRIBAL COURT

# Where we are located and what we offer

**BY REBECCA CAMPBELL CALFINA**

Tribal Justice Systems Administrator  
rebecca.calfina@eyak-nsn.gov

Location, location, location! It's come to my attention that many don't know where the NVE Tribal Court is located. So, let's clear that up!

Native Village of Eyak Tribal Court shares space next to the Alaska State Court, just up from the Post Office and in the same building as ACE Hardware. We offer services to the entire community with a focus on restorative justice, juvenile diversion, conflict resolution, talking circles, and substance abuse intervention.

We have a panel of five traditionally trained local Tribal Court Judges that preside in Panel and Circle Hearings. These gracious members of our Tribal Community are Mark Hoover, Lennette Ronnegard, Melina Meyer, Luke Borer and Martin Faulker. I'm pleased to also announce Lennette Ronnegard as our new Chief Justice appointed at the June Tribal Council Meeting! She's worked for the NVE's Language Program and as Enrollment Clerk from 2002 - 2006, again as Enrollment Clerk and at the Ilanka Cultural Center Gift Shop from 2016 to present and was appointed as a Tribal Judge 5 years ago. Lennette volunteered for the position to be more involved in our community and to give back. I'd like to extend a BIG thank you to all our Judges for making Tribal Justice accessible within our community, and we hope to see YOU stop in and say hello!

Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm unless otherwise posted.

### STATE CHAMPIONS

# Tribal member youth place at state wrestling tournament

**BY DANAYA HOOVER**

Congratulations to Blake Bailey and Gunnar Davis for taking home metals for the Cordova Pounders Club Wrestling Team. The boys traveled by ferry in May to participate in the 2022 AUSA State Tournament located at the Menard Center in Wasilla. Teams from all over the State of Alaska come to compete in this three-day showdown. It covers three different styles of wrestling: Folk Style, Greco Roman, and Free Style. Boys and girls compete in age/weight brackets. Blake Bailey wrestled in 2 events placing 5th in Folk Style and 6th in Freestyle. Gunnar Davis wrestled all three events, taking 3rd place in Greco and 2nd place in Free Style. Way to go Boys!!!! Thank you to Nate Taylor, coach of the Cordova Pounders wrestling team.



Blake Bailey, Jenny Bailey and Gunnar Davis at the state wrestling tournament.



Gunnar Davis takes the Podium for Silver in Free Style.

Photo by Danaya Hoover



Blake Bailey takes the podium for 6th place in Free Style.

Photo by Danaya Hoover



Alzheimer's  
Resource  
of Alaska



# Savvy Caregiver

6-week webinar, meeting every Saturday

Saturday, July 9 -

Saturday, Aug 13

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

**To register or for more  
information contact:**

Gay Wellman

✉ [gwellman@alzalaska.org](mailto:gwellman@alzalaska.org)

☎ [907-822-5620](tel:907-822-5620)

*Screening & Pre-Registration  
required. Space is limited.*

This class is for family members caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. Classes meet for 2 hours a week, over a six-week period, and focus on improving the practice of caregiving. There is discussion of decision making and the emotions you may face, as well as a thorough overview of Alzheimer's and related dementias.



Photo courtesy of Caitlin McKinstry

Sugar kelp harvest

## SUBSISTENCE PROGRAM

# SUGAR KELP

## is nutritious and sustainable

BY JESSIE ALEXANDER  
AND CAITLIN MCKINSTRY

jessie.alexander@eyak-nsn.gov  
caitlin.mckinstry@eyak-nsn.gov

On April 26, NVE's subsistence program distributed fresh sugar kelp to our tribal members. Traditionally, dAXunhyuu, the Eyak people, would harvest kelp with her-

ring spawn attached (like the rockweed we distributed earlier in April) or fresh kelp to dry in the sun. NVE members were encouraged to dry the sugar kelp using their new dehydrators they received from Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) earlier this year. The dried kelp flakes not only add a sea-like, umami flavor to dishes but also adds nutrients like calcium, magnesium, fo-

late, and Vitamins A, B and K. The sugar kelp distributed was from a local PWS kelp farm, Royal Ocean Kelp Company. Royal Ocean Kelp Co. received their starter seeds from the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute in Seward last Fall. The Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute, a major subsidiary of CRRC, aims to support local farmers in starting these ocean-based kelp farms.

It is easy to get behind and support this new industry as it has countless benefits. Not only is kelp a nutritional and sustainable food source, but fights climate change by absorbing carbon, regenerates marine ecosystems, and creates biofuel and renewable plastics.

NVE's Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recently received a grant to begin our own kelp operation. NVE's new kelp project is being led by our new biologist, Caitlin McKinstry. The first growing season and the start of this program will be this Fall 2022 when the kelp farm, a series of longlines with kelp seedlings attached, is deployed. Kelp will grow throughout the winter. Harvest will take place the following Spring 2023. We will use refurbished buoys, lines, and anchors to construct the farm and to keep these materials out of our local landfill. During these activities, our Tribal Youth Council will aid our mariculturists every step of the way to learn how to grow kelp in rural Alaska.

Jessie Alexander is NVE's Subsistence Coordinator and Caitlin McKinstry is NVE's Biologist.

## TRIBAL FAMILY SERVICES

### Elders Programs Update



All photos courtesy of Jackie Ladd

During Pascha (Russian Orthodox Easter), the Elder program will bake Kulich for the Elders to decorate. It is then delivered to Elders and they can take it to church to have blessed. From left, Marie Nichols and Helen Makarka.



Elders enjoying the large salmon berries on Whitshed RD. From left, Chris Belgarde, Eva Hager, Lennette Ronnegard.



The Elder program is coordinating with the subsistence program to offer fishing trips for NVE Elders. **If you are interested call Chris Belgarde, (907)429-7230 to see when the next fishing trip is scheduled.**



FAR LEFT: A brand new eve Flo booster seat. CENTER: Although both seats look practically new, the Graco booster on the left is set to expire in less than one year. Locations like Walmart will recycle your old car seat and some even provide store credit for an incentive. RIGHT: Jessica Weaver and Amy Brown at the Buckle up for Life event in the back parking lot of Native Village of Eyak on Saturday.

Photo by Vivian Kennedy/The Cordova Times

**TRIBAL FAMILY SERVICES**

16 new seats given to local caregivers

BY AMY K. BROWN

For The Cordova Times

On May 13 and 14, Native Village of Eyak hosted a car seat checkup event in partnership with Center for Safe Alaskans. This partnership was made possible through a grant from Buckle Up for Life, Toyota, and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. The grant aims to bring growth and mentorship to child passenger safety technicians in rural areas. As part of the grant, Buckle Up for Life provided 16 seats to caregivers in need of a car seat or booster seat.

**Car Seat Tips**

- Make sure your child is in the correct seat for their age, height, and weight.
- Be sure your child is properly harnessed in their seat.
- Do not transition to a booster seat before 4 years and 40 lbs. and boosters should be used until your child is at least 4’9”.
- Children under 13 should ride in the back seat.
- Check to see if your child’s car seat or booster seat is expired. Manufacturing information should be located on a label on the back or bottom of the seat. Many seats expire around 6 years from manufacture date.
- More information on how to properly secure your child can be found at [www.buckleupforlife.org](http://www.buckleupforlife.org).

Jessica Weaver is hoping to offer a car seat checkup event again next year, but in the meantime, she is available to help answer your car seat questions. She can be reached at (907) 424-2246 or email her at [Jessica.Weaver@eyak-nsn.gov](mailto:Jessica.Weaver@eyak-nsn.gov).

Amy K. Brown is a Child Passenger Safety Technician and program coordinator for the Center for Safe Alaskans. She can be reached at [amy@safealaskans.org](mailto:amy@safealaskans.org).



# NVE ELDER MUG-UPS

STARTING MAY 19, THURSDAY  
NOON - 2PM

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## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

JUNE 23  
JULY 21  
AUG 25  
AUG. 25  
SEPT 22  
OCT. 27  
NOV. 18, TURKEY BASKETS 10- 12  
DEC. 14 CHRISTMAS PARTY

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TRIBAL FAMILY SERVICE OFFICE  
MAIN ST.  
PIONEER SQUARE BUILDING

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
JACKIE 907-253-7230 OR  
CHRIS 907-429-7230

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**BRING A DISH TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS  
POTLUCK LUNCHEON**



Photo by Vivian Kennedy

TEFAP pickup location, downstairs at Native Village of Eyak's main lobby. FDPIR pickup location is Bayside Storage 87.



Photo by Vivian Kennedy

Fresh apples from June's TEFAP distribution.

## TRIBAL FAMILY SERVICES

# Two federal programs provide food security

BY VIVIAN KENNEDY

Food Assistance Program Manager  
vivian.kennedy@eyak-nsn.gov

Dear Tribal Members,

I am excited to announce that I have accepted a new position at NVE's Tribal Family Services Department. As your new Food Assistance Program Manager my job is to help individuals and families apply for and receive food assistance through two available USDA federal programs:

### The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP):

This USDA federal program helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans by providing emergency food assistance at no cost. You may be familiar with the Salvation Army's monthly program. This is the same program with similar food options and provides many shelf-stable canned goods, powdered milk, cereal, frozen items, and on occasion fresh produce. We recently received 100lbs of fresh apples with each



Photo courtesy of Vivian Kennedy

Vivian Kennedy, Food Assistance Program Manager.

household receiving one large bag. Applying is easy! It is a single form where you provide your name, phone number, address, household size and annual income. Certification is good for one year. I pre-package food items from what is available each month for you to pick-up at a scheduled time at NVE. To better serve you, I am working on providing regular scheduled pickup times so you can have access to new items each month. This program

is located at Native Village of Eyak's main building at 110 Nicholoff Way (just past AC Value Center) with pickup in the main lobby downstairs.

### Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR):

This program allows Indian Tribal Organizations to operate a food distribution program as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for those living on or near tribal lands. This USDA federal program distributes a larger variety of food items than TEFAP, including fresh produce, eggs, butter, box milk, cereal and baking goods as well as many canned options. There are also many frozen choices including salmon, halibut, chicken, ham, roast beef, ground burger and bison. The application process requires social security numbers, proof of income, paystubs, and declaration of income for all household members. The application process takes a bit of time to complete, and I am available to walk you through it at a sit-down interview by appointment. Once qualified, certification is good for one year and then you must renew within the month of expiration or if lapsed, re-apply. The last week of each month, I call each household directly to put together a shopping list, so you get exactly what you want from what's available, with scheduled pickup at Bayside Storage unit 87.

While I learn and settle into this new roll, I look forward to helping bring food security to Cordova. Please contact me if you or someone you know can benefit from either program.

For more information, email me at  
**FOOD@EYAK-NSN.GOV.**



NATIVE VILLAGE OF EYAK

# FOOD ASSISTANCE

Native Village of Eyak **Food Bank** is made possible by Food Bank of Alaska. Through them, we can offer a wide variety of shelf stable, frozen and fresh foods monthly to all eligible community members.

Eligibility is income based and automatic for those on SNAP (food stamps), TANF / TRIBAL, SSI or Medicaid, CSFP or FDIPIR and those receiving NSLP / LUNCH FREE/ REDUCED.



## OFFICE HOURS

Noon-3PM

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

*\* closed during designated holidays*



***Please call ahead.*** We are often able to accommodate other hours if needed. You may designate a proxy for pickup on your application if assistance is needed.



Visit us online: [WWW.EYAK-NSN.GOV](http://WWW.EYAK-NSN.GOV)

Email: [FOOD@EYAK-NSN.GOV](mailto:FOOD@EYAK-NSN.GOV)

To schedule pickup, call:

**907-424-COOK (2665)**



**TRIBAL FAMILY SERVICES**

**Cordova’s Children’s Advocacy Center (CCAC) ready to launch**

**BY HEATHER THORNE**

TFS Victim Advocacy & Response Coordinator  
 heather.thorne@eyak-nsn.gov

NVE’s, Cordova Children’s Advocacy Center (CCAC) is getting ready to launch all its services and resources to the public by the end of 2022. Children’s Advocacy Centers are vital to communities like ours, and the Tribal Family Services, CCAC program, will coordinate the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases by utilizing multidisciplinary teams compiled of professionals involved in child protective and victim advocacy services, law enforcement and prosecution, and physical and mental health. Our team members include Cordova Police Department, Forensic Nurses, Advocates from NVE and CFRC, the Alaska District Attorney’s Office, mental and behavioral health clinicians from Ilanka Community Health Center, The Office of Children’s Services, and the Cordova School District.

NVE’s CCAC team are well-trained and equipped to create a safe and comfortable environment for children and their families. The CCAC will aid OCS and law enforcement in conducting ChildFirst interviews. ChildFirst interviews are a style of interview that is conducive to gaining a child’s trust, adjust to the child’s communication style and limitations to best serve each child. It is our mission to put the child first in a way that suites their individual needs. The CCAC will provide a certified and specifically trained registered nurse that can perform over all exams to ensure a child’s health and professionally documenting if the District Attorney’s office brings their findings to court. The discovery of child abuse hurls a family into crisis and the CCAC provides a Child Advocate as well as an Involved Care Giver Advocate. The family advocate’s role is to help the non-offending parent or caregiver manage that crisis. Child Advocates provide support, assistance and advocacy along every step of the child’s case, from the time they our center until the family no longer needs our support and resources.

Our Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) has been working hard the last several months to become fully prepared for any scenario that needs our sexual assault response services. We have completed our 2nd mock call out, which consists of a real life-like scenarios that our first call responders can act upon. This helps our team to be able to give positive feedback to one another in a way that continues to push our progress forward. This practice allows our police department to utilize their interviewing skills, our SANE’s to practice and perfect their forensic exam techniques, along with letting our advocates put into practice their abilities to best provide the victim with a sense of safety, access to resources as well as a tailor-made safety plan, in the mists of a crisis.

Our 2nd mock callout consisted of an Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault team member, who was able to come to town to participate. Angie Ellis was able to provide insight on how other SART and CAC’s around the state are operating from the paperwork each team member processes to their individual agency duties. Angie is also a SANE who has conducted over 200 forensic exams. She provided one on one training with our SANE nurse, and they reviewed charting, practiced exam photos along with forensic exam techniques. With her help, we were able to create multiple checklists for our team members to ensure every case we see in our office, is court ready.



All photos courtesy of Jessica Morningstar  
 Local plants include wild daisies and lupine.



Instructor Kim (Webber) Aspeland shows local plant clippings and explains different uses for each.

**TRIBAL FAMILY SERVICES**

*Plant Class*

**BY JESSICCA MORNINGSTAR**

Wellness Event Coordinator  
 jessicca.jones@eyak-nsn.gov

Kim (Webber) Aspeland came to town to teach a plant class. We used local plant life to forage and create oxymels, salve, chapstick, capers and a vinaigrette all using natural local ingredients. It was an amazing class and I hope to bring her back next year!



Cultural Director Danaya Hoover and Traditional Harvesting Coordinator Jessie Alexander participate in the TFS Wellness Event.



Students forage for local plants with instructor Kim (Webber) Aspeland.

# Statewide Caregiver Telephone Support Group

Every 1st Saturday, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Every 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Dial in 1-877-216-1555, code 927989

Caregiving is hard. A caregiver can find it rewarding and frustrating at the same time.

It's easy to imagine that nobody could know what you're going through, but we do. You don't have to do this alone.

*Registration not necessary.*

## For More Information

**Contact:** Gay Wellman

**Phone:** 907-822-5620

**Email:** [gwellman@alzalaska.org](mailto:gwellman@alzalaska.org)



Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska

Phone 907-822-5620

Toll Free 1-800-478-1080

[www.AlzAlaska.org](http://www.AlzAlaska.org)



Scan for other  
upcoming events.



Photo by Danaya Hoover

### SUBSISTENCE PROGRAM

# Seagull Egg Harvest

**BY DANAYA HOOVER**

Cultural Director  
danaya.hoover@eyak-nsn.gov

On May 18, the Subsistence Program organized a Seagull Egg harvest trip. This is a tradition we look forward to participating in every year. Some years we go by boat, this year we were able to charter 2 flights to Egg Island. We included tribal members, elders & youth who expressed interest in harvesting. It was a beautiful, sunny day enjoyed by all! The group landed and ventured around the Island, buckets in tow looking for eggs. Together we collected enough eggs to distribute to members and elders the following day on Main Street. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time together and to share the bounty with others.

A seagull egg is much larger than a chicken egg and the rich yolks are deep orange. Seagull eggs are delicious in baking and make cakes extra moist. Some like to eat them scrambled or hard boiled. We are happy to keep this traditional harvest alive. If you are interested in participating in subsistence activities in the future, please contact our Traditional Harvest Coordinator Jessie Alexander at [jessie.alexander@eyak-nsn.gov](mailto:jessie.alexander@eyak-nsn.gov) to get your name on the contact list.



Photo by Jessie Alexander



Photo by Jessie Alexander



Photo by Jessie Alexander



# CHUGACH IMAQ



## What is the Chugach Imaq Project?

Chugach Imaq Project is a culturally competent co-management plan of marine mammal species within the Chugach Region. Co-management relationships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will improve the conservation and sustainable management of marine mammals in a rural and remote region where Indigenous people are keenly aware of the importance and interconnectedness of reproductive performance, survivorship, abundance, and vital rates. CRRC anticipates the creation of cooperative agreements to embody the spirit of subsistence users and traditions, while supplementing important environmental, biological, and harvest monitoring research.

## What is Imaq?

Imaq (E•muh•CK) is Sugcestun. It means ocean; sea; saltwater, and it's contents.

## When, and Where?

Starting November 14th, CRRC will be hosting a week long workshop at the Cordova Center. CRRC will be inviting both community and Tribal members to attend. Throughout the week there will be an open house for community members to learn about CRRC, CRRC's programs, and talk to staff, a day of introducing and educating the community on the project, and intensive interviews. [More information to come.](#)

## What are the anticipated outcomes?

CRRC has been awarded two small grants; one from the Marine Mammal Commission and the other from Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy to design and implement a pilot project that will be replicated across the Chugach Region. For this pilot project, CRRC has 4 anticipated outcomes.

1. CRRC staff will be trained to conduct ethnographic interviews and research, develop research protocol, and build a project model for replication.
2. NVE Tribal and Cordova community members will be educated on scientific concepts around climate change-induced ecosystem responses and marine mammal distribution, migration timing, health, diets, and behavior. In return participants will be able to contribute to TEK-based long-term monitoring efforts that are necessary for co-management.
3. CRRC's Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute and the Alaska SeaLife Center will have new regional data on the diets of harbor seals, sea lions, and sea otters, which will be used in future climate change and marine mammal health research.
4. A final report and poster publication that will detail the project's observations and conclusions, which will contribute to the co-management process, and inform future research.

# PROJECT

Informing future research and management to protect marine mammals and safeguard cultural, economic, and subsistence needs.

Climate change is affecting subsistence harvesting through changes in species abundance, distribution, and health. Subsistence practices must continue to be shared with younger generations to ensure continuation of traditional Alaska Native marine mammal use. Co-management is an important part of ensuring that marine mammals are used by future generations, and involvement of the people who live around and depend on marine mammals contributes critical and integral data to the management process. Evaluating the effects of a changing climate from a firsthand, Indigenous, and locally based viewpoint will ensure a better understanding of general health, body condition, population sizes, hunting seasons, behavior, and activity of marine mammals. The project research will inform future research prioritization and strategies to prevent and reverse harm to the marine ecosystem and species.

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Photo by Jane Spencer/for The Cordova Times

Dawn Radazzo sews rye beach grasses with sinew to help the natural materials move with the intestines during wet and dry conditions without tearing.

## Reviving tradition

# Artists stitch a Sugpiaq parka

*Sugpiaq elder leads group of Cordova artists in making of a bear gut raincoat*

**BY JANE SPENCER**

For The Cordova Times

Under the guidance of teacher June Pardue, a group of Native artists came together to make a traditional Sugpiaq bear gut raincoat. Chugachmiut Heritage Preservation funded the project, which is now displayed at their office in Anchorage.

Chugachmiut wanted to purchase a gut parka for small museum in their office, but there was no one in our region who knew how to make them. They decided to take the money they were going to spend on buying a gut



Artist Joyce Kompkoff Peterson models the finished bear gut rain jacket, with beautiful fur trim details.

parka to hold a class to not only make one, but to teach regional artists how to make one so the skill can be revived again in the different regional villages.

Dawn Randazzo, assistant archivist at Chugachmiut, chose Pardue to teach the group and assembled this group of artists.

Pardue is Sugpiaq, from Old Harbor, and she's an "expert artist, and has experience sewing with intestines," Randazzo said, adding, "she is also an amazing teacher."

The goal of the project was to try to create an entirely Sugpiaq group to make the raincoat. Randazzo said she "tried to select people that had different skills that would work together to best revitalize this."

The significance of this raincoat is evident to everyone involved in the creation of it.

"Over 100 years since the women of this re-

gion sewed a gut parka," said Brooke Mallory, deputy director for Native Village of Eyak.

Echoing the sentiment is Diane Selanoff, a Sugpiaq elder from Port Graham, who also helped sew and design the raincoat.

"What we've done here the past couple weeks, is we made history that has been denied from this history for many years," Selanoff said.

This particular bear gut raincoat was made from the intestines of two bears; a brown bear and a black bear.

"The black bear was really nice to work with because it was a young early in the season bear, it was a young bear so there was hardly any odor to it," Pardue said.

Because the parka will be featured in the showroom, the group decided to make it more decorative with embellishments and fur trim.



Photo courtesy of Alex Sallee

“Squares of seal and sea lion. Seal has sea shells, with sea otter fur as the bottom piece, or flare as I like to call it,” Mallory said.

Pardue added, “Culture is not stagnant, it changes with time. We have here, our ladies using their artistic license to come up with a really nice looking trim.”

It takes three bears to make a full gut raincoat, which would include a hood.

“It was our hope to make a complete waterproof parka, but we realized as we went along, we didn’t have enough material to do the hood,” Selanoff said. “So, it was at that time we made a collective decision to make this more of a ceremonial-type parka. So we embellished it with furs from this area, it’s all marine mammals, and its sea otter, sea lion and seal. The shells are resemblant of the shells we’d gather here in Prince William

Sound, like butter clams. So, we use those because they are from the area too, but it was also decided that the wrist cuffs have red bead embellishments on them; the red is significant of the blood lines of this traditional parka.”

The making of a bear gut raincoat takes a lot of time and involves many steps, and each step has its own process. Beach rye grass was used when sewing the intestine pieces of the parka together.

“It’s not like you can just go grab grasses from the beach, there’s a process to that too in preparation for being sewn in. It has to be the softest most pliable part of the grass,” Selanoff continued. “Each day, the beginning of the day was preparing the grass to be used for the gut parka and taking out the hard parts. The hard part of the grass is considered a



Photo by Jane Spencer/for The Cordova Times

Beach grass soaking, and processed bear intestine that will soon be used in the bear gut raincoat.



Photo courtesy of Alex Sallee

A close up of some of the stitching techniques used for the bear gut parka, which uses beach rye grass and sinew.



Photo by Jane Spencer/for The Cordova Times

Harvested beach grasses for the bear gut raincoat.



Photo courtesy of Alex Sallee

The artists pose in front of their finished bear gut parka. From left to right: Joyce Kompkoff Peterson, Brooke Mallory, teacher June Pardue, Diane Selanoff, Dawn Randazzo and Andrea Floersheimer.



Photo courtesy of Alex Sallee

Sewing the parka with rye beach grass and sinew, along the edges of the bear intestine.

weak spot because when it moves it can break and can cause fault to the jacket itself. And in sewing it, there's a different method of sewing the waterproof stitch as opposed to the fancy stitch."

In addition to the beach grass, sinew is used, which comes from the back of a deer, to allow for movement and flexibility. Making a bear gut parka involves durability and also flexibility of the materials, because the materials need to get wet but also be able to dry out. "When the water hits the natural materials, it will expand, and has a tendency to contract when its dry" Selanoff said.

Pardue further explains the importance of the thread material; "If all their gut raincoats were made out of cotton thread, that cotton thread doesn't have stretch or shrinking along with the gut. That's why we use sinew, because it'll expand and shrink."

Having a gut raincoat to withstand the unforgiving weather in Alaska was essential.

"When a man needed a kayak, it was the wife who did the sewing, she did the inspection, she would crawl inside and look at all the stitches," You know, she wanted her husband to come back. It was like that with the gut raincoat, she wanted him to survive out at sea. The maidens, the girls waiting to get married would have to practice this, it was life or death," Pardue said.

Nowadays, raincoats come in many different materials and styles, but back then gathering materials, creating patterns and the process of making a raincoat took time and skill. It was more than just using the available materials, it took a form of engineering to improve upon their natural elements.

Pardue says, "not only how to use the grass but how to prepare it for sewing with, there's a part of the beach grass that needs to be thrown out and stripped away. They depend on the moisture from the grass to dampen the seal gut as they sew it, because if they over



Photo by Jane Spencer/for The Cordova Times

Joyce Peterson models the jacket, so the group can check the fit of their bear gut raincoat.

water it becomes unmanageable to sew with, it has to be just right."

The grasses are used for stitching, but the intestines, which make up the material of the parka, also require a time-consuming process to prepare.

"Three layers of intestine, you scrap the outer side, after its flushed out, and then you take and you scrape the inside and then you turn the gut inside out," Pardue said. "It gets blown up, tied off one end, and it was all the full length of several tables. We took those buckets and filled them up with water, you need to submerge it in water, to make sure there are no holes in the intestine."

While clothing is made with different shapes sewn together, the gut parka is made entirely different because of the naturally long pieces of the intestines, stitched together on the long sides of the intestines.

"If you're making a coat at a factory, you have your arm section, your zipper section, your back section, etc.," Selanoff explains pattern making with the intestines is different than cutting pieces of fabric to create a pattern. "In the making of this parka, it was made with one continuous, the intestine was continuous, so there would be no breaks and that also provided more durability."

Intestines are generally long and narrow pieces, but the small and large intestines vary with oiliness and durability. Those different textures of the intestines are used strategically in areas that may require more mobility or an area that needs thicker more durable parts.

"The small intestine held more fat, so it was more oily, but it did dry and we noticed in the parka the large intestine was used where there was a lot of stress and moveability, so it's in the arms and elbows," Selanoff explains. "If you're moving it's stronger and it has more oils, so it has more flexibility."

A full parka includes the hood, and would



Drying the bear intestines in the sun, one of the many time consuming steps in making the bear gut parka. Photo courtesy of Alex Sallee



Inspiration for our replica. Photo from "The Etholen Collection" book.

attach onto the kayak, making the person almost completely sealed off from the rain.

"Once the man gets into his kayak, he'll sit down and he'll have his garment pulled up so that when he sat down, he was able to pull all around. There's a sinch, and a little groove in the hatch where they sinch the raincoat over, making them one with the kayak. The hood is large enough to give them room to move. If they were out at sea hunting. The hood had to fit over their hunting hats, the visors, the hood would have to fit over that as well," Pardue said.

She continues on, "when you think about a seal, put yourself inside the animal and you're part of the intestines. The intestines have a lining outside and a lining inside and our god created the intestines for nothing to seep out into the body of the creatures, and nothing to seep into the gut. So, it makes sense that the Sugpiat people would make a rain jacket out of that."

"Putting the pattern together which is a skill in itself to make a pattern for an individual," Pardue said. "There's a lot of history that goes into that and just itself by each process to get to that point and these past couple weeks



Photo by Jane Spencer/for The Cordova Times

Diane Selanoff sewing the Sugpiat bear gut raincoat together, with decorative fur trim for the jacket resting on her shoulder. Trim is made from seal and sea lion and features shells and red beads. A camera rests on the table documenting the process.

we've made history that hasn't been made."

Selanoff is proud of the work they put in, and praises Pardue, "the group that Chugachmiut put together is a group of artists from this region who can carry that tradition on and forward. And it wasn't just a small undertaking, each thing she taught us was a lesson in itself that could take time to understand."

Alaska photographer and filmmaker Alex Sallee documented the group and the project, taking videos and photographs.

"Dawn and Andrea from Chugachmiut Heritage Preservation Department were looking for an Alaska Native filmmaker — there aren't

a lot of us — to document the process of the bear gut raincoat and traditional qayaq (kayak) build — which we are filming next month. It was really amazing to witness and spend time with this group for two weeks, it was such a collaboration as they were discovering together how it would all come together and was really meaningful to everyone involved," Sallee added. "Also the community in Cordova is super cool, it was my first time there even though I grew up in Alaska."

Once finished, the documentary will be available on [chugachmiutheritagearchive.org](http://chugachmiutheritagearchive.org).



ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER

# Recording the past

BY JANALIE HOWARD

ICC Assistant

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We would like to thank the Institute of Museum and Library Services for providing the Native American, Native Hawaiian Library Services Grant (IMLS-NANH) which funded this project!

The grant, "Recording the Past" was written by Teal Hansen, and conducted by Janalie Howard. The project funding from the IMLS-NANH grant was able to go towards acquiring necessary equipment to scan and store tribal family's photographs into a digital collection to sustain everlasting documentation. Over the course of the last year with the help of this grant we were able to professionally develop a digital collection of over 400 photos from 10 contributors. This digital collection will be used as an invaluable resource to learn about our area and heritage and will ensure future descendants can enjoy photos of their ancestors for generations to come.

We would like to thank all who have contributed their families' photos to the digital collection so far! It is because of you that this is possible!

We will continue to add to the digital archive moving forward!



ABOVE: F/V Sound Quest in the Valdez narrows taken in 1996. Photo courtesy of Mike Webber



LEFT: This photo was taken in 1976. Mike Webber at age 16, shot the largest moose of the year just below Martin Lake. The moose rack was 66 inches. Photo courtesy of Teal Hansen



George Anderson on a skiff with a cannery in background. Photo courtesy of Darrel Olsen



Rain Abel and Molly Rice on Eyak River Bridge 1990. Photo courtesy of Rain Abel



Gladys in the 1940's. Photo courtesy of Darrel Olsen



Boat launch on June 13, 2019. Kids paddling in Eyak Lake from Skater's Cabin. Photo courtesy of Mark Hoover



Mike, Chris, and Ashley Webber fishing at Gravina Point in 1992. Photo courtesy of Mike Webber



Taken in 1993 showing boats taking part in the oil blockade in Valdez in protest of the oil spill. Photo courtesy of Mike Webber



All photos by Danaya Hoover

Teal Hansen Presenting for Hurtigruten Cruise Ship at the Cordova Center.

### CRUISE SHIPS

## Visitors from all over the world learn about Eyak culture

**BY DANAYA HOOVER**

ICC Cultural Director  
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Cordova was visited by Hurtigruten Cruises on May 30 and June 23. Native Village of Eyak and Prince William Sound Science Center teamed up to offer a dual presentation to share information on our area with passengers. There were 180 passengers who wanted to participate in the presentations, so we offered two one-hour presentations to accommodate. Thirty minutes was dedicated to learning about Eyak and surrounding areas, culture and history, and for the other 30-minutes, PWSSC presented on the work they do and the science in and around Cordova.

Ilanka Cultural Center also set up a beautiful table display of artwork created here in Cordova, including a variety of furs from this area as well as work created through ICC Cultural Classes. Passengers came from all over the world including Spain, England, France, Scotland, and more. The ship arrived outside the harbor around 2:30pm and shuttled passengers to shore where they were then met by Cathy Renfeldt from the Cordova Chamber of Commerce and NVE staff Tammie Smith and Jessie Alexander who helped greet and direct them to the Cordova Center and other places around town. Cordova was a day stop for them and the last shuttle left at 9:00 p.m.

“Hurtigruten Group is the world leader in exploration travel, and the world’s largest expedition cruise company. This comes with a responsibility to ensure that sustainability is integrated across all our operations. With the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we focus on innovation, technology and concrete measures to explore as responsibly as possible.” (Hurtigruten.com)



Artwork display table featuring Ilanka Cultural Class creations by local artists.



Lynx, Seal, Sea Otter, Ermine, Marten, Coyote, and Beaver on display.



Aerial view of the unfinished 3D Eyak village.

## ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER

# IMLS NANH Grant Award

BY TEAL HANSEN

ICC Coordinator

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### IMLS NANH Grant Award & ICC Cultural Classes

In the year of July 2020-June 2021, Ilanka Cultural Center was granted the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) Native America/Native Hawaiian (NANH) grant for the project titled “Connecting to the Past.” In this project, we hired Designori, an immersion educational technology company from Anchorage, to digitally create a traditional Eyak village, with guidance from our Eyak elders and written history compiled by myself. With this grant we were also able to purchase a 3D scanner which allowed us to scan many Eyak artifacts from the two museums in Cordova and in Anchorage. These artifacts were scanned and placed within the 3D village experience. Now, when an ICC visitor puts on the headset, they will be able to interact with these artifacts within this digital Eyak village recreation and complete tasks, like picking berries with artifact woven baskets, paddling in a dugout canoe, or filleting fish with an Eyak ulu.

This project was such an amazing idea, but it was unfinished! So much time and resour-



A participant filleting a salmon with an Eyak ulu artifact.



Cultural Director, Danaya Hoover, testing out the 3D experience.

es were spent on creating this experience that we wanted to expand on the project and make it better. With this goal in mind, while I was out on maternity leave, Brooke Mallory wrote another IMLS NANH grant this last No-



ember 2021 titled “Connections to the Past.” IMLS notified us this June of our grant award. This following year, we will purchase audio equipment to allow us to insert high quality recordings of our elders telling stories, and hire Designori for character development, activity and game development, and other little glitch improvements. We are honored to be awarded the grant yet again and are very excited to develop and polish the 3D experience ICC will be able to bring to our visitors by next July 2023.



The start of the Beginning Painting class taught by Sylvia Lange. Front from left, Cassie Septian, Faith Barnes, Gail Foode. Middle from left, Stephanie Belgarde, Caitlin McKinstry, Joy Landaluce. Back from left, Jessica Hoover Jones, Danaya Hoover, Lennette Ronnegard and Toni Bocci. (May 2022)



AirTag's made into a beaded salmon leather keychain.



Beaded Salmon Leather AirTag Mother's Day Class photo taught by Kanisha Tiedeman Lohse. Left: Angela Butler with daughter Lizzi Arnold. Center: Jill and daughter Alice Graves. Top Right: Diane Ujioka with daughter Kelsey Hawley. Front: Sue Muma with granddaughter Addy Jensen. April 2022.

## ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER ICC Cultural Classes

**BY TEAL HANSEN**

ICC Coordinator  
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This quarter, Ilanka Cultural Center offered a Beaded Salmon Leather AirTag Mother's Day class and a Beginning Painting Class. The salmon leather class was taught by Kanisha Tiedeman Lohse to five sets of mother and daughters, or grandmother and granddaughters. An Apple AirTag is a tracking device designed to act as a key or purse finder. This was a perfect quick class for beginners and when I entered the classroom to take photos, students were enthusiastic and cheery.

The 10-student painting class was taught by Tribal Council member Sylvia Lange. This was a several-day class held in the evenings at the Masonic Lodge. Beginner artists learned about color theory, basic painting terms and properties while allowing time for them to finish their own painting.

We will have a 2-week Beginning Chilkat Weaving Class taught by Shgen George in mid-October. We are also looking forward to a Seal Bowl or Spoon Carving class this winter. If you are a member and are interested in taking classes, keep an eye out for your email announcement. You must be an ICC Member to take cultural classes. You need not be a Tribal Member to take classes. Annual memberships are \$20 for a single person or \$50 for a family. Memberships grant you first notifications of upcoming cultural classes and priority.



### ICC CLASS

# Slippers a success!

**BY KAYLEY BABIC DELOZIER**

Tribal Family Services Advocate  
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Alaska Native Arts students did a phenomenal job finishing their last project of the year, slippers! This class was an absolute pleasure teaching. I learned so much and I hope the kids did too. I hope to continue doing it next year and incorporate even more projects, art mediums, Alaska Native history and cultural knowledge.

## ELDER SERVICES

*For information on Elder services, activities and events, contact*

**Jackie Ladd**

*Elder Services Coordinator*

**907-253-7230**

OR

**Chris Belgarde**

*Elder Services Assistant*

**907-429-7230**

**8AM - 5PM Monday thru Friday**



All photos by Danaya Hoover

A great turnout for First Fish Dinner at the Masonic Lodge.

## Ilnaka Cultural Center

# First fish dinner

BY JESSIE ALEXANDER

Traditional harvesting Coordinator  
 Jessie.alexander@eyak-nsn.gov

On May 10, we celebrated the return of our beloved salmon with our First Fish Dinner potlatch at the Masonic Lodge. NVE is given the opportunity to go out and fish before the commercial fleet opens under an Educational Fishery Permit. The fishermen who participated and caught our quota of king salmon were Jason Platt, Robert Cunningham and Hayley Hoover. The Native Arts Class then participated in a fish filleting demonstration put on by Mark King. The king salmon fillets were then distributed to designated fish cooks that prepared the fish for the dinner. We are grateful to be able to dine together this year and celebrate the return of our prized fish. Many participated in the potlatch creating a beautiful spread of food that left everyone with full hearts and bellies.



A beautiful variety of cooked king salmon.

## SUBSISTENCE

# It's been a busy season!

BY JESSIE ALEXANDER

Traditional Harvesting Coordinator  
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Our subsistence program has been busy this season! Mark King and assistant Tina Fox have been taking tribal members out on subsistence openers on the Big Sky to fill their subsistence salmon permits as well as fishing proxy permits. Subsistence dipnet fishery opened June 1 on the Copper River. We tested it out making two trips with tribal members. Although they were not very successful, it was nice to get out there and try. The Subsistence Program is also working with the Elders Program to do monthly halibut trips with Elders. If you are an Elder interested in going on a halibut trip, please contact Jackie Ladd to schedule a trip. Throughout the season, Mark, myself, and Tina work hard to process and preserve, smoke and freeze fish. We then share with Elders and tribal members, as well as donate to the Sobriety Celebration and other future potlatch events. The Subsistence Program also does gathering trips to pick various berries and makes jams and jellies to distribute. If you are interested in berry picking with us, please contact Jessie Alexander to get your name on a contact list to go on scheduled adventures.



All photos by Jessie Alexander

Mark preparing smoked king salmon heads to be frozen for the Sobriety Potlatch.



Lovie Brock and Mark King Subsistence Salmon Fishing.



Tina Fox and Lloyd Belgarde trying out dipnet fishing on the Copper River.



## 2022 Junior Native Youth Olympics



Photo courtesy of Danaya Hoover

Back row from left, assistant coach Jason Holley, Jaxon Pallas, Ava Bergmann, Mariah Hottinger, Hannah Hottinger, Leif Solberg, Aurora Gloe, Milana Merritt, Grace Higgins, Steven Pallas, Peter Solberg, Amelia Hottinger, coach Nick Tiedeman, front row from left, Madden Merritt, Adelyn Gloe, Tanner Lohse, Jonah Wright, Wesley Sheridan, Kade Christian.



Photo courtesy of Danaya Hoover

Back row from left, assistant coach Jason Holley, Marcus Holley, Peter Solberg, Lilly Arasmith, Milana Merritt, Grace Higgins, Layla Phillips, Amelia Hottinger, Leif Solberg, Coach Nick Tiedeman, front row from left, Ava Bergmann, Hannah Hottinger, Kade Christian, Teague Webber, Jameson Holley, Madden Merritt.

## 21 Cordova kids participate in JNYO

**BY DANAYA HOOVER**

Cultural Director  
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For the second year in a row, Junior Native Youth Olympics was held as a virtual event. From Cordova, 21 kids participated representing Mt. Eccles Elementary School. Age range for JNYO is grades 1-6 and all kids are welcome to join.

Our team this year was led by returning Head Coach Nick Tiedeman and Assistant Coach Jake Holley. They began practice in December and competition started January 25 and ran through March 6. All our Elementary kids are familiar with the JNYO events as they learn and practice them every year during Mt. Eccles Cultural week.

JNYO gives them an opportunity to practice and fine tune their skills for competition. The Junior version of the games is neat because participants can compete in as many events as they choose. Later down the road in NYO they choose only one event to compete in. JNYO events include 1 and 2-foot-high kicks, scissor broad jump, wrist carry, kneel jump, and seal hop. Events are split into boys and girls and grades 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6.

With a virtual competition, videos are recorded by coaches and helpers using measuring devices to record the different events and outcomes. Those videos are then submitted to the Cook Inlet Tribal Council where they are reviewed, and winners are decided. There were 300 participants from all over Alaska that competed this year, which grew from last year's 140. I would like to thank all our local athletes for participating! Each of you did an amazing job and we are all so proud.

With the help of our sponsors Native Village of Eyak, The Eyak Corporation, and Tiedeman Construction team uniforms were purchased including customized t-shirts, sweats, a hoodie, and a beanie. We also celebrated a successful season with a pizza movie night at the Cordova Center. Special thanks to Jen Pallas for donating her time and effort to make us delicious pizza dough! We would also like to thank our youth helpers Greyson Marek, Willow and Taylor Tiedeman for your help throughout the season! Congratulations to our medal-winning athletes listed below. Each placing athlete will also receive a Medal and a 2022 JNYO hooded sweatshirt from Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

PLACE	ATHLETE	GRADE	EVENT	
FIRST	Kade Christian	Boys 1-2 grade	2 Foot High Kick	Kicking 34"
FIRST	Kade Christian	Boys 1-2 Grade	Wrist Carry	Holding 12.62 sec.
FIRST	Hannah Hottinger	Girls 1-2 Grade	Wrist Carry	Holding 4.2 sec.
FIRST	Grace Higgins	Girls 5-6 Grade	Wrist Carry	Holding 25.11 sec.
SECOND	Jonah Wright	Boys 3-4 Grade	Scissor Broad Jump	Jumping 21' ½"
THIRD	Jonah Wright	Boys 3-4 Grade	Wrist Carry	Holding 16.57 sec.
THIRD	Aurora Gloe	Girls 3-4 Grade	1 Foot High Kick	Kicking 48"



Fishwheel #2 Baird Canyon, lower Copper River. Designed to fish ledges and canyon walls.

## DENR

# Fisheries Program Update

BY MATT PICHE

Natural Resources Coordinator and Biologist II  
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Hello from the banks of the Copper River. As I sit here and type this king salmon and sockeye salmon are swimming past me on a return journey to their natal tributaries. The 2022 salmon run is in full swing, and NVE's fish crews are working hard to monitor returning salmon run size and spawning escapement on the Copper River.

This is the 20th year of the Chinook Salmon Escapement Monitoring Program which has provided NVE with an important role in collecting management data on a salmon population the Eyak and Ahtna people have utilized since time immemorial. This is a successful example of a Tribal Government working alongside state and federal managers to help ensure the health of a population which our tribal members depend upon. The data collected from this project is used to determine if the King salmon escapement goal has been met on an annual basis, assess escapement goal performance over time, track

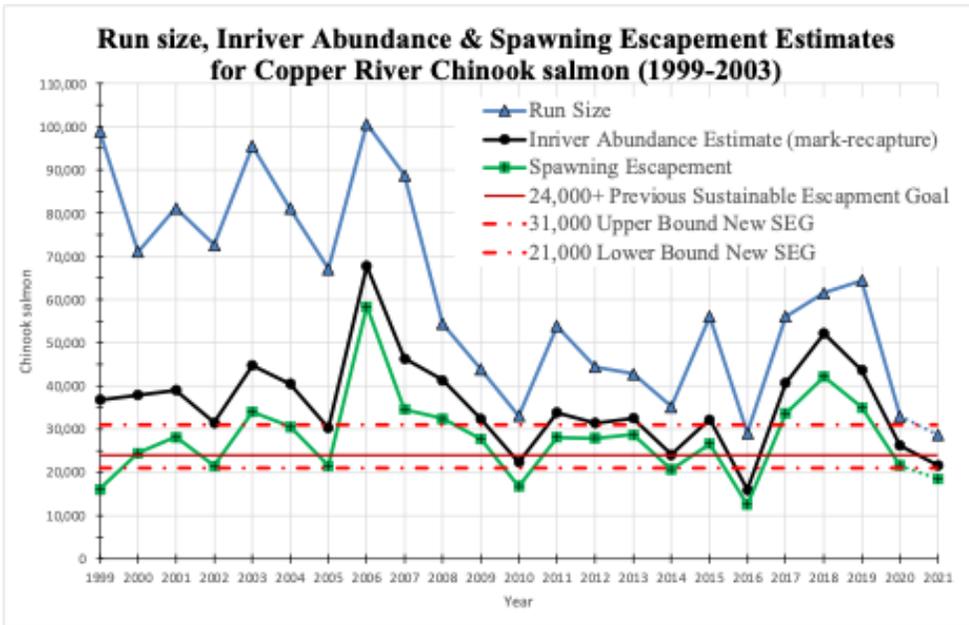
overall population health and trends, help inform regulatory decisions for fisheries, and is used as one of several indices to manage Copper River fisheries inseason.

This year also marks the first year of a new pilot study using sonar to conduct tributary monitoring of Copper River salmon. Up first is the Klutina River drainage which has historically hosted one of the largest sockeye salmon populations in the Copper River Watershed. The Klutina River salmon stocks are important to all user groups and are harvested by subsistence, commercial, personal use, and sport fish users from the Copper River Flats to Klutina Lake.

Tributary salmon monitoring will allow biologists to better understand salmon productivity within the Copper River watershed, while the addition of juvenile salmon studies, food web studies, limnology, and water chemistry monitoring will enhance our knowledge and ability to predict future salmon runs as the drainage changes over time with our warming climate. The next phase of this study will expand the work to a non-glacial tributary providing researchers with a good com-



Fishwheel #3 Canyon Creek, mid-Copper River below Wood Canyon. Designed to fish ledges and canyon walls.



Copper River Chinook salmon run size, inriver abundance, and spawning escapement dataset. 1999-2002 ADFG mark recapture study, 2003-2021 NVE mark recapture study.



ANSEP student Archer Bowles counting salmon passing the sonar, Klutina River, Copper River Watershed, AK.



Fish Counting Sonar on the Klutina River, Copper River Watershed, AK.

parison of how these two dynamic watershed types will change over time and what that means for the salmon within.

We are also wrapping up our system-wide Chinook salmon distribution study (2019-2021) and prepping data for publishing this fall/winter (see summary figure below). This study used active radio-telemetry tags to track Chinook salmon through the watershed using radio towers and plane surveys, providing us with data on which tributary tagged fish returned, stock specific run timing on the lower river, and tributary escapement estimates. We will be hosting a few presentations in town later this summer to share this data with tribal members and the public.

Lastly, we are starting to get return data on a full salmon life cycle for the Copper River Chinook salmon ocean survival (smolt to adult) and inriver survival (parr to smolt) study led by ADF&G’s Sport Fish Division. NVE has assisted with the recovery of the coded wire tagged adult Chinook salmon for the past 6 years. At the request of ADF&G we look for adipose clipped fish on our fishwheels and when found we sacrifice the fish so the head can be sent to the Mark, Tag, Age Laboratory in Juneau. The data on the wire tag will provide tagging date and location while allowing researchers to estimate juvenile to adult survival for that tagging group. After the head is removed, the remaining fish is donated to the NVE Elders. Bob and Jackie Ladd have spent countless hours preparing and sharing these fish among NVE Elders, we are grateful for their time, effort, and great care taken with these fish. This year the NVE Subsistence Program will be preparing and sharing these fish with our Elders. If you received a king salmon over the past six years year it was a result of this partnership between ADF&G and NVE.

NVE’s Department of the Environment and Natural Resources has three remote field camps opened right now conducting research and monitoring on Copper River salmon with the goal of ensuring healthy runs and sustainable fisheries continue for future generations of Tribal Members. If you or someone you know is interested in science, looking for summer work outdoors with fish and wants to be involved in our research and monitoring programs please reach out to me – Matt Piché at the NVE office 907-424-7738 or [matt.piche@eyak-nsn.gov](mailto:matt.piche@eyak-nsn.gov). We begin advertising our positions in January each year and usually wrap up hiring by early March, it’s never too early to submit your application for next summer. This year our fisheries program employed 10 seasonal fisheries technicians, biologists, and Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program interns. We would love to have you join us on the Copper River.



All photos courtesy of Jessica Morningstar

Students and counselor enjoying the perfect weather while we were there.



Hawk Kennison in the last class showing his mom Jessica Morningstar some of his crafts he made during the week. The eagle hat was by far his favorite.

## HERITAGE WEEK

# 2022 Cultural Heritage Week in Tatitlek

BY JESSICCA MORNINGSTAR

[jessicca.jones@eyak-nsn.gov](mailto:jessicca.jones@eyak-nsn.gov)

I had the opportunity and honor to be invited to 2022 Cultural Heritage Week in Tatitlek, Alaska for the week of May 9-13. Coming back from COVID was so exciting and I was thrilled to be part of a tradition that has touched my soul! My sister attended the camp and my daughter, and I attended as a chaperone and teacher. This year was my son Hawk's first year as an invited guest and student. He attended the primary classes and had three amazing teachers this year: Miss Anna, Miss Sonya, and Miss Jan.

We couldn't have asked for better weather as every day we were there was a sunny beautiful day! From walks on the beach to find marbles and treasures to bonfires at night with s'mores.

There is a project done every year as you can see in the photos that we participated in, and we all got t-shirts that had this year's logo on the front.

I got to teach this year and my class was beaded headdresses. I loved working with the high school students. I have three classes with about 6 students in each class. Each student made a headdress, and they were all beautiful and colorful and I couldn't be happier with the turn out. Each student was unique and special, and I loved being a part of that with them.

The silent auction was an exciting thing to attend this year as one of David Totemoff's fresh Kings auctioned off for almost \$3,000, all of which went into next year's camp expenses.

It is my goal to attend this every year of Hawk's life and return as a teacher when I am needed. I love Tatitlek and the community there and enjoy spending time with them and being part of such a special camp experience!

I want to thank Angela Totemoff for all her hard work at the camp. It truly is one of my favorite times of the year and something I always look forward to.



Hawk Lin Kennison, age 6. This was Jessica Morningstar's son Hawk's first year being invited as a student. His teachers were amazing, and he had so much fun with all their projects.



# The Copper River Family of Companies Quarterly Update

## *A Letter from Sylvia Lange, ANGS Chairman*

Hello Fellow Tribal Members,

It is my pleasure to offer this update on the latest business in your subsidiary company, ANGS. ANGS manages and oversees, on your behalf, the Copper River Family of Companies. Your NVE Council understands our ownership of these companies to be a vital means of furthering the vision and mission of our Tribe. We have been an active participant in the Small Business Administration 8(a) program since 2006. Building upon that experience, and the contributions of past NVE leadership, I am happy to report that our Copper River Family of Companies have completed our best year in history last year, after a concerted effort of restructuring, and 2022 is shaping up to keep that momentum going. We pledge to continue our increased oversight, transparency, and communication.

Our CEO, Kevin McLaughlin has included a company wide update, and we are sharing photos and descriptions of the work our companies have been doing. Please feel free to contact me, or NVE for any questions we may answer. Also, please check out our website at [CopperRiverMC.com](http://CopperRiverMC.com). We welcome any suggestions or comments.

Gunalch'eech and I hope you are enjoying our wonderful summer!  
- Sylvia Lange

## *A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Operating Companies*

We are excited to introduce the newest members of the Copper River Family of Companies, *Coho Technology Solutions* and *Coho Construction Management*. Joining their fellow Coho operating companies, *Coho Integrated Solutions* and *Coho Consulting Group*, all four Coho operating companies have been working hard to support our clients' missions and have expanded our focus to support critical federal healthcare requirements.

**Coho Integrated Solutions:** Coho Integrated Solutions provides comprehensive healthcare support solutions and services that enable our clients to provide high-quality healthcare to their patients. Our turn-key solutions in Medical, Operational, Environmental, IT, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management allows our clients to enhance service delivery in caring for their patients. From healthcare staffing to program and operations management, advanced medical systems and inventory management, Coho IS allows our clients to improve the critical services they provide while reducing costs and maintaining safety and security for their patients.

**Coho Consulting Group:** Coho Consulting Group, LLC delivers proven consultative solutions & services that transform businesses into innovative, forward-thinking, and competitive enterprises. Industry-leaders in the Information Technology and Management fields, our expertise goes beyond traditional consulting; our team of experts brings extensive experience in solving complex, enterprise-wide challenges. Our portfolio of solutions & services includes Business Transformation & Optimization, Next-Generation Solutions, Program & Functional Leadership, Human Capital Management, and Foreign Military Sales that are delivered through our cost-effective procurement advantages. By looking beyond the issues of today, Coho Consulting Group transforms our clients' business ensuring an innovative and resilient tomorrow.

**Coho Technology Solutions:** Coho Technology Solutions, LLC is driven to deliver the industry's most innovative healthcare technology, staffing, and consultative services to our federal clients. We blend our extensive past performance with our unique, cost-effective procurement advantages to ensure our clients receive the critical solutions and services they need, quickly and efficiently. From digital modernization and mission operations to human capital and professional services, Coho Technology Solutions delivers cutting-edge solutions and services to address our clients' most critical requirements.

**Coho Construction Management:** Coho Construction Management, LLC offers an extensive portfolio of Construction and Facilities Management capabilities and services. By supporting our Federal clients with often complex, multi-faceted construction and infrastructure projects, Coho Construction Management ensures projects are delivered on time, within budget, and meet the highest quality and safety standards possible.



The Copper River Family of Companies



## THANK YOU LETTER

# Dear Native Village of Eyak and Chugach regional resource commission,

Thank you so much for all the food security tools you have provided to tribal members. It has helped so much with our food preservation this season. I have been able to smoke and pressure jar salmon, make shelf stable jams and jellies, freeze, and collect berries, dehydrate jerky and make the kids fruit leather, pressure-can spaghetti meat sauces and stews, dehydrate fruit and so much more. Also, it has really helped with my motivation to learn more food preservation skills and teach these to my children at the same time. Here are a few pictures of my kids participating in catching, harvesting, and preserving some of our bountiful resources.

Thank you so much,

**Diana Riedel** Fireweed and wild strawberry jelly.

All photos courtesy of Diana Riedel



Kiley Burton



Elora Riedel picking salmonberries



Elora Riedel cooking down fireweed flowers for preserves.

## ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

# Quarterly Update

BY JESSICA ARASMITH

Registration & Outreach Supervisor  
jessica.arasmith@eyak-nsn.gov

### COVID-19 Updates

Ilanka Clinic continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters to all that qualify. If you haven't received your vaccination or are curious if you qualify for a booster, please contact the clinic at (907)424-3622. Nursing staff are also available to answer questions about COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.

### Purchased Referred Care

The Purchased Referred Care program offers many additional resources for Native Village of Eyak beneficiaries. Some of these include Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), Chiropractic, Acupuncture, Audiology, Dental, and Optometry. Here are some important reminders regarding Purchased Referred Care:

A total of 18 visits are available per calendar year for all PT, OT, Chiropractic and Acupuncture services. Please note, it is important that you track your visits, so you know when the 18-visit limit is reached.

A referral from an Ilanka Provider is needed to initiate PT, OT, Chiropractic, Acupuncture and Audiology services.

Because PRC funding is limited and specifically designed to supplement services provided at the clinic, referrals written by anyone other than an Ilanka Provider are not eligible for payment. This includes referrals written by ANMC providers. Please reach out to your Ilanka provider should you receive a referral for services in Cordova. Your provider will review and help determine the best course of action.

As a reminder, if the clinic is closed and you are concerned about symptoms you or a family member are experiencing, we encourage you to call the Clinic and select Option 2 to speak to a Registered Nurse. They will guide you in the most appropriate course of action.

At any time, please contact the clinic to obtain a Purchased Referred Care manual or ask questions; we are happy to help!

As always, if you are experiencing symptoms which indicate something serious could be occurring, such as a heart attack or stroke, please call 911 or go to the Emergency Room at the Cordova Community Medical Center (CCMC).

### Patient Surveys

Patient surveys were completed in May. We appreciate all of you that filled one out, providing feedback that helps guide us in meeting your healthcare needs. One area

that people are very interested in is Nutrition services. We have recently started a monthly get-together called "Health and Wellness 411". At these, Barbara Solomon, LN, leads an engaging discussion on a variety of topics such as sleep, stress and more. The topic changes monthly in response to what you want to learn about. Join us from noon to 1 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Wellness Center. Meetings are free and open to the community.

Another topic that is often mentioned in surveys is Mental Health. In response, Ilanka Clinic's behavioral health services have increased. John Yakanak recently completed training in Play Therapy, a valuable tool in working with children. In May, an additional behavioral health clinician, Holly Maguire, was added to our team, expanding our expertise in areas such as grief counseling and addiction. To make an appointment or to just speak with a clinician about services, please contact the clinic at (907)424-3622.

### Patient Portal

Ilanka Clinic's Patient Portal is always improving! This app, which can be loaded onto your smartphone, allows you to view your lab results, request appointments, send messages to your provider, access your chart notes, review your medications, receive clinic updates and much more. If you would like access to these benefits, please call us at (907)424-3622 and let us know. If you are having challenges with setting up the app, please make an appointment with front desk and we will help.

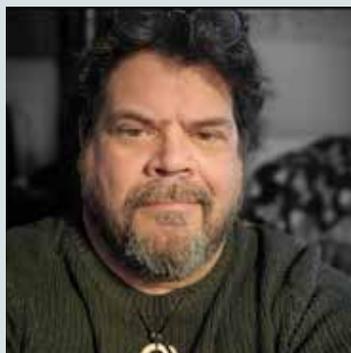
## ILANKA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

# Welcomes two new employees

### Ron Smith

Please join Ilanka Community Health Center in welcoming Ron Smith to the administrative team. Ron is our new Administrative Coordinator. He will be assisting administration with marketing, ordering, special projects and other operational tasks that keep the clinic running smoothly.

Ron moved to Cordova in April of 2022. He enjoys cooking, meditation, and outdoor activities. He looks forward to enjoying all the local ingredients that Cordova has to offer and learning more about Alaska culture.



### Holly McGuire

Ilanka Community Health Center welcomes Holly McGuire to the Behavior Health Team. Holly is a licensed mental health counselor and is excited to be providing services that address mental health and or substance use needs. Holly moved to Cordova in May of 2022. She enjoys many outdoor activities such as hiking, kayaking, and yoga. Holly is excited to be living in a community filled with so many opportunities for adventure.





**Tribal Member Photos** SHARE YOUR PHOTOS IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER BY EMAILING THEM TO ECHO@EYAK-NSN.GOV. \*1MB+ JPEG images work best. Please include brief caption info, photo credit and first and last names of those pictured.



Shyla, Jax and Jazlyn West in a mother and children photo. Photo courtesy of Shyla Krukoff



Photo courtesy of Jessica Morningstar  
Sisters Jessica Morningstar and Danaya Hoover during Kim's plant class.



Jace and Jazlyn West plating on the beach. Photo courtesy of Shyla Krukoff



Webber sisters on Teal's 30th birthday. From left, Misa Webber, Teal Hansen and Ashley Christensen. (June 16, 2022) Photo courtesy of Teal Hansen



Kayley Delozier at a Tribal Family Services' Wellness Event with plant education and forging. Photo courtesy of Jessica Morningstar



Three generations of Gilbert and Barbara Olsen Family attended the Chugach Alaska Corporation Informational Meeting on Saturday June 25, 2022 at the Masonic Hall. Four out of five children of the family: 1st generation, Darrel Olsen, Arlene Olsen, Clifford Olsen, Altana Hamilton; 2nd generation, Shyla Krukoff Olsen, daughter of Arlene Olsen; and 3rd generation, Jazlyn West, daughter of Shyla Krukoff Olsen and granddaughter to Umma Arlene Olsen. Photo courtesy of Darrel Olsen

Katrina Hoffman and Mike Webber on their annual Mother's Day halibut trip. (May 8, 2022)



Photo courtesy of Teal Hansen



Ashley Christensen with nieces Katella and Gravina Hansen visiting Grandma irene's grave. (June 7, 2022) Photo courtesy of Teal Hansen

**NVE TRIBAL COURT**

Available to the entire community  
Everyone is welcome

Native Village of Eyak's Judicial Department offers:

- Conflict Resolution
- Family Mediation
- Restoration
- Juvenile Diversion
- Child Welfare (tribal members only)
- Intervention

For more information, contact  
Rebecca Campbell Calfina at

**907-424-7880**

500 Water Street, Cordova, AK (next to the Alaska Court System)  
Rebecca.Calfina@eyak-nsn.gov or courtclerk@eyak-nsn.gov



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**BOB LADD, MARINA MANAGER**

**907-253-4332**

EMAIL: BOB.LADD@EYAK-NSN.GOV



Holly Lynn West with a fresh wildflower bouquet on the shores of Eyak Lake near Skater's Cabin. (June 28, 2022) Photo courtesy of Vivian Kennedy



Jax West digging up gravel. Photo courtesy of Shyla Krukoff



Jax and Jazlyn West playing in the sand out the road. Photo courtesy of Shyla Krukoff

# ILANKA CULTURAL CENTER GIFT SHOP



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For the 27th Annual Sobriety Celebration

November 11-13, 2022

# Call for Committee Members

Volunteering your time would include attending the monthly meetings and having input and ideas for the upcoming event. It also means taking on tasks and managing those tasks to completion for the event.

**IF YOU HAVE INTEREST IN THE COMMITTEE, PLEASE  
CONTACT JESSICA JONES AT TFS 907424-2402  
JESSICA.JONES@EYAK-NSN.GOV**